

What is claimed is:

1. A method of reducing the severity of inflammation in a subject comprising:
  - a. selecting a subject with inflammation or at risk for inflammation and
  - b. administering to the subject an effective amount of an agent that inhibits  
glycogen synthase kinase 3 activity, inhibition of glycogen synthase kinase 3  
reducing the severity of inflammation in the subject.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is administered within 24 hours before or  
after the subject is contacted with an inflammatory agent.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is administered within 2 hours before or  
after the subject is contacted with an inflammatory agent.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is administered within 2 hours before or  
after inflammation begins.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the inflammation is associated with an infection.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the infection is a viral infection.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the infection is a bacterial infection.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the bacterial infection is a gram positive bacterial  
infection.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein the bacterial infection is a gram negative bacterial  
infection.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is lithium chloride.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is SB216763.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the inflammation is sepsis.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is administered to the subject prior to or  
after surgery.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is administered to the subject prior to or  
after contact with an infectious biological weapon.
15. A method of reducing the severity of inflammation in a subject comprising:
  - a. selecting a subject with inflammation or at risk for inflammation and
  - b. administering to the subject an effective amount of an agent that inhibits  
phosphorylation of glycogen synthase kinase 3 activity, inhibition of  
phosphorylation of glycogen synthase kinase 3 reducing the severity of  
inflammation in the subject.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the agent mediates the phosphorylation of serine at the ninth or twenty first residue of glycogen synthase kinase 3.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein the agent is lithium chloride.
18. The method of claim 16, wherein the agent is SB216763.
- 5 19. A method of reducing the severity of inflammation in a biological system comprising:
- a. selecting an inflamed biological system or a biological system at risk for inflammation and
  - b. administering to the biological system an effective amount of an agent that
- 10 inhibits glycogen synthase kinase 3, inhibition of glycogen synthase kinase 3 reducing the severity of inflammation in the biological system.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the biological system is an *in vitro* or *ex vivo* culture system.
21. The method of claim 19, wherein the biological system is a tissue culture system.
- 15 22. The method of claim 19, wherein the biological system is an organ culture system.
23. A method of reducing the severity of inflammation in a biological system comprising:
- a. selecting an inflamed biological system or a biological system at risk for inflammation and
  - b. administering to the biological system an effective amount of an agent that
- 20 modulates phosphorylation of glycogen synthase kinase 3, modulation of phosphorylation of glycogen synthase kinase 3 reducing the severity of inflammation in the biological system.
24. A method of reducing the severity of inflammation in a subject comprising:
- a. selecting a subject with inflammation or at risk for the inflammation and
  - b. administering to the subject an effective amount of an agent that inhibits
- 25 phosphorylation of glycogen synthase kinase 3, inhibition of phosphorylation reducing the severity of the inflammation in the subject.
25. The method of claim 24, wherein the inflammation is associated with an
- 30 inflammatory disease.
26. The method of claim 25, wherein the inflammatory disease is selected from the group consisting of systemic lupus erythematosus, Hashimoto's disease, rheumatoid

arthritis, graft-versus-host disease, Sjögren's syndrome, pernicious anemia, Addison disease, scleroderma, Goodpasture's syndrome, Crohn's disease, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis, Basedow's disease, thrombopenia purpura, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, allergy; asthma, inflammatory bowel disease, cancer, ulcerative colitis, scleroderma, and cardiomyopathy.

27. A method of reducing the risk of inflammation in a recipient of an implantation or a transplantation comprising contacting the implant or transplant with an agent that inhibits glycogen synthase kinase 3 activity, inhibition of glycogen synthase kinase 3 activity reducing the risk of inflammation of the recipient.
28. The method of claim 27, wherein the contacting step is performed prior to implantation or transplantation into the recipient.
29. A method of reducing the risk of inflammation in a recipient of an implantation or a transplantation comprising contacting the implant or transplant with an agent that modulates phosphorylation of glycogen synthase kinase 3 activity, modulation of phosphorylation of glycogen synthase kinase 3 activity reducing the risk of inflammation of the recipient.